Middlebury Vt. Nov. 6th 1858

Dear Brother:

Perhaps long before now you have thought me negligent in not writing to you. Indeed I had the same thought with regard to yourself, before the receipt of your last letter: but I by no means intended to retaliate the wrong by being delinquent myself. Yet I now find that a long time has elapsed, and your letter is not yet answered. If you demand an excuse for this neglect, my only apology is, the pressure of business. My time has been so much occupied by study for a few weeks past, that I have found but little time for writing. But that you may hear from me once more before you leave Meriden, I deprive myself of an hour of this night to repose, in order to write you these few lines.

I suppose your present term of school is now well nigh its close, and you will soon be back at Langdon, training the boys "on the hill" to a due obedience to such government, as your wisdom may establish for their growth in knowledge. I wish you great success in your labors with that hitherto "rebellious crew;" and hope you will be instrumental in introducing a new order of things among them. I think you will have a pleasant time this winter, on account of being so near home; and it will be still more pleasant if you board at home. I also allot much upon this, because I expect to be there again: and if so, we can spend our evenings together very delightfully in reading and study.

By the tone of your last letter I inferred that dis contents are wont to arise in your mind, as ever and anon in my own. But experience has taught me that it is altogether unprofitable to harbour such feelings, and that we should suffer them to intrude upon our peace as seldom as possible. I concluded however, that the depression which you manifested, was but the legitimate consequence attending the commencement of the study of Greek; and have therefore confidence in believing that you feel quite differently by this time. I well recollect the conflicts of my mind when I first entered upon the study of the Greek language. I compared myself to a man taking a long journey through a dark wilderness, not knowing the path in which he treads, and whom no ray of light from the farther boundary cheers onward in his course. But after a march of two years, I begin to see the darkness gradually being dispelled, and if life and health be spared, I trust that I shall eventually behold the full day. And so it will be with you. Let all these thoughts about quitting the Greek, not going to college &c. go to the winds, Pursue a steady and faithful course, and all difficulties will in time vanish.

The present college term (14 weeks) will close in three weeks from next tuesday. On the whole I think it has been as pleasant to me as any term which I have spent in college. I have lived much more retired than usual; and retirement was always very congenial to my mind, perhaps too much so. I have a room entirely by myself, and am not much troubled by intruders. There is no one to hinder me from studying as I like, and when I like. Therefore my business being planned, I can pursue it at my own discretion. Indeed this habit

of living by myself has become so satisfactory ~~to me~~, that I know not but it will be painful to me, to leave my college cell, and go out among people during the winter. We are reading this term in the classics, Cicero de Officiis, and Xenophon's Memorabilia of Socrates. These are the writings of two heathen philosophers; but they contain many things worthy of being copied by the philosophers and moralists of the present age. We also finish Euclid this fall, and recite twice a week in Shakspeare, before the Prof. of rhetoric. The catalogues have not yet appeared, but are now being printed at the Galaxy office in this village. I have been expecting a catalogue from Meriden for a long time, but have received none. How is it? dont they publish them this fall?

I received a line from Sumner last week. His term closed on friday last, and he was to have a vacation of one week only, which he thought of spending at Langdon. Had a letter from father about two weeks ago, bringing intelligence of the death of grandfather Albee, which occurred on the 8th of Oct.

Accept this with the affectionate regard of

your brother Ellery Albee.

Ellery Albee.

Solon. Albee
1848.

Grandfather
Albee (Solon
Father)
died Oct 8